Music at Convocation Hall

Music at Convocation Hall II

Tango Passion!!!

Polly Ferman, piano (Visiting Artist)
Antonio Peruch, concert accordion (Visiting Artist)
Aaron Au, violin
Alycia Au, violin (Visiting Artist)
Charles Pilon, viola (Visiting Artist)
Julie Amundsen, cello
James Mallet, bass (Visiting Artist)
Mario Allende, percussion (Visiting Artist)

Convocation Hall

Sunday, February 25, 2007
at 3:00 pm

Arts Building
University of Alberta

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

PROGRAM

La Cumparsita	GH Matos Rodriguez (1900-1948)
Milonga del Riachuelo	Juan José Ramos (1930-1995)
Fracanapa	Astor Piazzolla/Daniel Binelli (1921-1992)/(b. 1946)
Responso	Aníbal Troilo/Daniel Binelli
Metropolis	Daniel Binelli
Preludio y Candombe: Llamada de Tambores	
Tango Sensations II (Loving)	Astor Piazzolla
Romance (Zita/Close Your Eyes and Listen)	Astor Piazzolla/Paolo Picchio (1921-1992)/(b. 1968)

Intermission

Imagenes de Buenos Aires	Daniel Binelli
Preludio	
Gran Tango	
Milonga	
Tango de los Cuadros	Daniel Binelli
Oblivion	Astor Piazzolla
Libertango	Astor Piazzolla/Antonio Peruch
Adiós Nonino	Astor Piazzolla
A Fuego Lento	Horacio Salgán/Daniel Binelli
Don Agustín Bardi	(b. 1916)/(b. 1946)

Acknowledgement
Many thanks to Daniel Binelli for providing his music and arrangements for this concert. Thanks also to our donors, Time Developments Ltd and Giovanni Yamaha Music, who have made possible the visit of Polly Ferman to the Department of Music.

90.9 CBC radio Two

CBC Radio Two is pleased to share tonight's concert with the rest of Canada through a broadcast on its new performance program which runs daily from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, commencing March 19, 2007. You can listen to CBC Radio Two at 90.9FM in Edmonton.

Program Notes
by Liz Smolec

La Cumparsita by **GH Matos Rodriguez** is one of the best known tangos of all time, and is Uruguayan in origin. It is the lament of a man betrayed by the woman he loves.

Argentinean composer **Juan José Ramos** (1930–1995) studied music in France and Spain. His most renowned teacher was Manuel de Falla. Ramos' music is predominantly based in Tango and Milonga. *Milonga del Riachuelo* is a wonderful example.

Virtuoso bandoneonist **Astor Piazzolla** (1921–1992) was one of the most innovative, prolific, and popular composers of the 20th century. His key musical influences were: the traditional Argentine tango, jazz, and the classical training he received from Alberto Ginastera in Buenos Aires, and from Nadia Boulanger in Paris. It was Boulanger who encouraged Piazzolla to focus his compositional energies on the tango. Piazzolla's highly original *tango nuevo* (new tango) incorporates elements of both jazz and classical music. Its enormous international popularity has revived interest in the tango outside Argentina. *Fracanapa* is a work inspired by the character of the same name in the Commedia dell'Arte, whose characteristics include provoking innovative change that creates powerful dramatic situations. *Loving*, one of the *Five Tango Sensations*, was commissioned by the Kronos Quartet and recorded by them with Astor Piazzolla (his last recording). Romance is an outstanding, passionate arrangement by **Paolo Picchio** (b. 1968) that combines two of Piazzolla's works—*Zita* and *Close Your Eyes and Listen*. (Dr Picchio is a composer, arranger, author, musicologist, accordionist, and editor of *Fisarmoniae*. He is also artistic director of the International Music Competition of Castelfidardo, Italy.) *Oblivion* was nominated for a Grammy award for Best Instrumental Composition in 1993. *Libertango* won a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition in 1998 (tonight's version was arranged by Antonio Peruch). Piazzolla dedicated his signature piece, *Adios Nonino*, to his two children and the memory of his father. Piazzolla considered it to be his best composition.

Aníbal Troilo (1914–1975), a towering figure in classic Argentine tango, was a superb and revered bandoneonist, bandleader, composer, and arranger. (He was well-known for streamlining arrangements down to their essential simplicity.) In spite of being well-rooted in traditional tango, he nevertheless was open to the innovations of Astor Piazzolla, who wrote tango arrangements for Troilo's tango orchestra and performed bandoneon with them. He was Piazzolla's mentor. Piazzolla wrote his four-movement *Suite Troileana* in tribute to Troilo. Someone challenged Troilo to write something a bit more daring than the usual tango. *Responso* is Troilo's answer (response) to this challenge. You can hear in this piece musical characteristics that appear in early Piazzolla works.

Internationally renowned master of the bandoneón, Argentine **Daniel Binelli** (b 1946) is a seasoned composer and arranger. From 1968 to 1982, he was bandoneonist and arranger at the prestigious Osvaldo Pugliese tango orchestra. In 1989, he joined Astor Piazzolla's New Tango Sextet, touring with them in

Brazil, Chile, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Holland, and Switzerland before Piazzolla's death in 1992. His musical collaboration with Pugliese and Piazzolla puts him at the epicenter of tango history. He is a prolific arranger of tango music for a variety of musical mediums, and continues to write new commissioned works for tango orchestras, symphony orchestras, soloists and ensembles, and dance companies. He also composes film music. More information about Daniel Binelli is available at www.danielbinelli.com and www.binelli-ferman.com. *Metropolis* was conceived to be performed as a quintet in the dance show Tango Metropolis. *Preludio y Candombe*, subtitled *Llamada de Tambores* is a tribute to Uruguay and was composed for bandonéon, piano, and string orchestra. ("Candombe" is a synonym for the mélange of musical styles that make up tango. It is also an African musical style that arrived in Buenos Aires and Uruguay with African immigrants: it gave tango its pulsation.) Binelli composed *Imagenes de Buenos Aires* especially for the Binelli-Ferman duo in 2001. Later, he added string orchestra parts to the work. A tango composer can find inspiration for his music anywhere, even from beautiful paintings, as in *Tango de los Cuadros*.

Argentine **Horacio Salgán** (b 1916) was a pianist, composer, arranger, and bandleader. Compositionally, he was an important transitional figure between the more traditional tango and Piazzolla's *tango nuevo*. *A Fuego Lento* uses the ostinato of a famous tango, *La Yumba*, by Osvaldo Pugliese. *Don Agustín Bardi* takes its name from one of the one of the most important and talented composers and pianists of traditional tango—Agustín Bardi.

The Artists

Polly Ferman

One of the leading interpreters of the music of the Americas, Polly Ferman captivates audiences with her outstanding performances of works by Gottschalk, Nazareth, Gershwin, Villa-Lobos, Ginastera, Piazzolla, and Golijov, among others. The Japan Times called her " Musical Ambassador of the Americas".

Her extensive tours have included performances with the San Francisco Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Tokyo City Philharmonic, Kharkov Philharmonic (Ukraine), Philippine Philharmonic, São Paulo State Symphony, National Symphony of Argentina, Camerata Romeu in Cuba, all the major orchestras of her native Uruguay, as well as recitals in New York, London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Munich, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Tokyo, Beijing, Shanghai, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires. She has also performed for the Emperor and the Empress of Japan.

Ferman is the Music Director and pianist for Leading Ladies of Tango, the first all-female tango music and dance ensemble, which recently performed at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Her other collaborations include duo and trio performances with guitarist Eduardo Isaac and composer and bandoneonist Daniel Binelli. She was also a guest artist in Binelli's Quintet and Tango Metropolis. Ms Ferman has recorded for Music Masters, New Vision, Romeo Records, Musical Heritage Society, Talent Records, EPSA Music, Sondor, and PAMAR.

She is the founder of PAMAR, Pan American Musical Art Research, Inc (www.pamar.org), which sponsors presentations of emerging and established artists of Pan American origin. In November 2006, PAMAR and Polly Ferman presented the First Annual Latin American Cultural Week in New York.

Additional information about Ms Ferman is available at www.pollyferman.net and www.binelli-ferman.net.

Antonio Peruch

Italian newspaper *La Tribuna di Treviso* has described Antonio Peruch as "perhaps the greatest classical accordionist in the world." His honours include a knighthood from the Republic of Italy, a Gold Medal from Italy, a Government of Alberta Achievement Award, a City of Edmonton Civic Honours Award, and a University of Alberta Alumni Association Award of Excellence.

Peruch provided revolutionary design ideas to the Victoria Accordion Company of Italy to inspire the creation of the world's finest concert accordion. He commissions and performs music that exploits the exceptionally expressive sonorities of this unique instrument. Commissions include a *Jazz Concerto for Accordion and String Quartet*, by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's former composer-in-residence Allan Gilliland and a virtuoso *Concerto for Accordion and Orchestra*, by Juno Award-winning Malcolm Forsyth.

Peruch has appeared before enthusiastic audiences internationally, performing classical and contemporary music, jazz, and in musical theatre. He has accompanied major popular Italian artists (Domenico Modugno, Mina, Claudio Villa). His performances have been heard on the CBC, Italian national radio (RAI), and on the Internet. Peruch currently specializes in performing traditional tango and Astor Piazzolla's *tango nuevo*.

Aaron Au

A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Aaron is currently a first violinist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and a sessional instructor of viola at the University of Alberta. In demand as a violinist, violist, teacher and adjudicator, Aaron has performed and taught in Canada, the US, Europe, Japan and Cuba. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Music at the University of Alberta and is also President and Artistic Director of the Edmonton Recital Society. As a conductor, Aaron has served as Resident Conductor of the Mill Creek Colliery Band and as a Guest Conductor with the University of Alberta Academy Strings Orchestra. This summer, he will be attending the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Alycia Au

A versatile violinist, Alycia Au has been involved in various areas of music throughout the years - chamber, orchestral and solo. Her early involvement in chamber music has significantly impacted and shaped her musical career and interests. At the age of 14, Alycia was the violinist of The Bridge Trio, which took first prize at the CIBC National Music Festival and which later recorded for the CBC. Alycia performs chamber music regularly as a guest artist on the University of Alberta's Friends and Faculty series and Music at Convocation Hall series. As an orchestral player, Alycia has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada on their tours across Canada and Japan, and was concertmaster of the UBC and U of A Symphony Orchestras. Alycia has had the privilege of working with artists such as Midori and Pinchas Zukerman, and has made solo appearances with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the UBC Symphony Orchestra.

Alycia grew up intently watching and listening to her older brother practice the violin. At the age of 3, she began taking lessons in her hometown of Lethbridge, Alberta. Throughout her life, she has received invaluable musical training from Robert Bardston, Lise Boutin, Peter Visentin, Norbert Boehm and Susan Jarvis. She has a Master of Music performance degree from the University of Alberta where she studied with Martin Riseley. Before coming to Edmonton, Alycia graduated as Head of the Class at the University of British Columbia where she studied with Andrew Dawes and received a Bachelor of Music degree.

Currently, Alycia continues to enjoy the variety that music allows – teaching and performing, and freelancing with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. When taking time away from music, Alycia loves to spend her time playing sports such as ice hockey, badminton and soccer; and spending time in the outdoors hiking and backpacking.

Charles Pilon
Charles Pilon studied violin with Sonia Jeinkova at Montréal's Marianapolis College. He earned a Bachelor of Music from McGill University under Mauricio Fuks before heading off to the University of Southern California's Advanced Studies program with Robert Lipett.

Charles has always been interested in playing the viola along with the violin, and during his tenure at USC, he also studied with David Cerone at the Encore School of Strings and with Roman Totenberg at Kneizel Hall. He joined Orchestra London in the first violin section (2003-04) before joining the Edmonton Symphony's first violins for the 2004-2005 season. Following his successful audition, he was appointed Assistant Principal Viola for the ESO for the start of the 2005-06 season.

Julie Amundsen
Julie Amundsen was born in Edmonton and received her early cello instruction at the University of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat College conservatories. In 1998 she received her Diploma for Kunstlerische Ausbildung from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hannover where she studied with Friedrick Jürgen Sellheim and Klaus Heitz. During her studies there she was awarded the 19th century Lorenzo Ventapane cello for excellence in performance and appeared regularly as a substitute in the cello section of the North German Radio Philharmonie Hannover. Most recently, Julie has had the privilege of performing chamber music with artists such as Andrew Dawes, Sara Bitlloch, David Harding, Paul Marleyn, Martin Riseley, and Stéphane Lemelin. In April 2003 she completed graduate studies with Tanya Prochazka at the University of Alberta. In the 2004 – 2005 season she was a full time member of the Edmonton Symphony, and was an instructor for cello at the University of Alberta in 2006.

James Mallet
A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas, James has been a bassist with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra (Norway) and the Arnhem Philharmonic Orchestra (Holland), and a substitute bassist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. James also spent three summers as principal bassist of the Aspen Chamber Orchestra (Colorado) and another summer as a member of the National Repertory Orchestra bass section (Colorado). James has also been learning to tango.

Mario Allende
Born in Chile and raised in Canada, Mario is best known as the driving force in the latin/world group, Bomba! He mixes the drum kit, timbales, congas and myriad percussion instruments as effortlessly as he incorporates the traditional and contemporary styles that gives him his unique sound. A studied yet emotional player, Mario is restlessly creative and performs with the spirit the music demands.

Upcoming Visiting Artist Lecture-Recital

Polly Ferman, piano

Music Director and Pianist
Leading Ladies of Tango

The History of Tango: Habañeras Milongas Tangos

Featuring Milhaud *Tango des Fratellini*, Stravinsky *Tango*, Ginastera *Milonga*, Piazzolla *Oblivion* and *Adiós Nonino,* Binelli *Images of Buenos Aires,* and works by Gottschalk, Chabrier, Nazareth, Mortet, and Lagarmilla

Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta
Admission: $20/adult, $15/stud/sen

***Tango Masterclass* (all instruments)**

Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 10:00 am
Studio 27, Fine Arts Building 2-7
Free admssion

For more information, please contact the Department of Music,
Fine Arts Building 3-82, Telephone: 492-0601